

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

INRE-00 DRC-01 /064 W

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O P 0511150Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5300

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 672

E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION PRESS REVIEW MAY 5 (84/74)

USIAC

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

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AMMAN FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. SECRETARY'S TALKS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS. SYRIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDUCTION OF FIRE ON GOLAN AND ONGOING COALITION NEGOTIATIONS ARE OTHER TOPICS.

2. SECRETARY'S TALKS.

UNDER THE HEADLINE: " KISSINGER TOLD ISRAEL: 'SEPARATION OF FORCES WITH SYRIA IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KUNEITRA AND THE HILLS' "HAARETZ (INDEPENDENT-GOLAN) WRITES THAT KISSINGER DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH ADVANTAGES THAT A CEASE-FIRE WOULD GIVE ISRAEL. KISSINGER NOTED THAT HE, LIKE ISRAEL, COULD NOT POINT TO ANY SIGN PROVING SYRIA'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PEACE," BUT THIS FACT....ACCORDING TO KISSINGER, MAKES SEPARATION..AND RELAXATION MORE IMPORTANT...KISSINGER EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTED A MEANINGFUL SEPARATION.. I.E.: A SIGNIFICANT THINNING OUT OF FORCES..AND STATIONING OF UNEF--AND NOT UN OBSERVERS-- IN THE BUFFER ZONE..."

3. KISSINGER WAS REPORTEDLY CAUTIOUS IN EVALUATING CHANCES OF PERSUADING DAMASCUS TO ACCEPT THESE TERMS, BUT IT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD FROM HIM THAT HE BELIEVES THAT IF ISRAEL WOULD AGREE TO WITHDRAW FROM KUNEITRA AND THE HILLS, HIS TASK WOULD BECOME CONSIDERABLY EASIER. SENIOR OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM MADE EVALUATION THAT, DESPITE DAMASCUS' NEGATIVE DECLARATIONS, KISSINGER RETURNED TO ISRAEL WITH SYRIAN AGREEMENT ON THINNING OUT AND UNEF. SYRIA'S CONDITIONS ARE: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM KUNEITRA; THE HILLS AND SYRIAN HERMON WILL BE HANDED OVER TO UN; AND A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ENCLAVE. GOI, IN ITS MEETING TODAY WILL MAKE A FINAL DECISION REGARDING ABOVE.

4. DAVAR (HISTADRUT-ESHED) REPORTS THAT PROGRESS OF TALKS IS SLOWER THAN SEEN BEFORE AND " AMERICAN SOURCES MENTIONED LAST NIGHT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTHER VISIT WILL BE NECESSARY.." ON QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL, ESHED WRITES THAT IT IS ASSUMED THAT ISRAEL WILL INSIST ON PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY, I.E. EVEN IF ISRAEL AGREES UNCLASSIFIED

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TO WITHDRAW BYOND VIOLET LINE AT CERTAIN POINTS, IT WILL DEMAND THAT OTHER POINTS, ON SYRIAN SIDE OF LONE, SHOULD REMAIN IN ISRAELI HANDS. IT IS ALSO ASSUMED THAT SEPARATION AGREEMENT WILL GUARANTEE THAT NO ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ON GOLAN WILL BE MOVED AND WILL ALSO REMAIN OUTSIDE SYRIAN ARTILLERY RANGE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THINNING OUT AGREEMENT.

G M SYRIAN ANNOUNCEMENT ON REDUCTION OF ARTILLERY FIRE ON GOLAN.

YEDIOT AHARONOT (INDEPENDENT) HEADLINE STORY QUOTES RADIO DAMASCUS THAT AS OF 18:30 LAST NIGHT (MAY 4) SYRIA STOPPED FIRE THROUGHOUT GOLAN, EXCEPT IN HERMON REGION. "ISRAELI REPORTS CONFIRM STATEMENT," ACCORDING TO AHARONOT. MORNING NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, REPORT ON CONTINUATION OF FIRE DURING SECRETARY'S STAY IN DAMASCUS. HAARETZ EDITORIAL, COMMENTING ON " VERY HIGH PRICE IDF HAS TO PAY IN THE NORTH" RECOMMENDS " DRAWING INTELLIGENT CONCLUSIONS FROM THREE-YEAR EXPERIENCE..ON EGYPTIAN FRONT..." ANOTHER HAARETZ EDITORIAL STATES THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT TISRAEL IS INTERESTED IN A CEASE-FIRE AS A FIRST AIM. "SUCH AN IMPRESSION CAN PLACE US IN AN UNNECESSARY WEAK POSITION...THE DANGER EXISTS THAT A CEASE-FIRE WILL BECOME A SYRIAN CONCESSION, ENTITLING DAMASCUS TO A SPECIAL CONCESSION BY ISRAEL."

6. COALITION NEGOTIATIONS:

TALKS BETWEEN LABOR AND NRP LEADERS FAILED TO PRODUCE A FORMULA WHICH WOULD ENABLE NRP TO JOIN COALITION HEADED BY YITZAHK RABIN. NRP EXECUTIVE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET MAY 6 TO DECIDE UNDER WHAT TERMS TO JOIN. " SHOULD NRP DECIDE TO STAY OUT, THEN RABIN..WILL OPEN TALKS WITH THE INDEPENDENT LIBERALS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS ON THE FORMATION OF A NAROW COALITION." (JERUSALEM-POST-INDEPENDENT). SUCH COALITION WOULD HAVE 61 MEMBERS. BUT NEWSPAPERS GENERALLY AGREE THAT RABIN AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS WILL DO THEIR UTMOST NOT TO BREAK "TRADITIONAL PARTNERSHIP" WITH NRP. HOWEVER, ANY ATTEMPT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO NRP ON WHO IS A JEW QUESTION WILL BE MET BY STRONG OPPOSITION FROM MAPAM AND OTHER COALITION PARTNER, THE INDEPENDENT LIBERALS. SEVERAL LABOR

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MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY FROM EX-RAFI FACTION, HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO FORMING NARROW COALITION WITHOUT NRP " WHICH WOULD DISRUPT BALANCE BETWEEN 'DOVES' AND 'HAWKS', IN THE FORMER'S FAVOR." (JERUSALEM-POST).

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